

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for culture comprising a container having at least one concave part and at least one member (x) selected from the group consisting of a gelatinous material, a sponge material, and a mesh material, wherein the member (x) is placed within the concave part ~~of the container~~, has ~~at least one hollow~~ per one concave part, by which a part ~~or parts~~ of a surface of the container in the concave part is bared such that the bottom of the hollow consists essentially of the bared surface of the container, and holds a solution containing culture medium components, ~~wherein the solution held in the member (x) can exchange with a culture medium solution placed in the at least one hollow by diffusion during use.~~
2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the solution containing culture medium components further comprises at least one substance to be examined.
3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the container is a laboratory dish for culture or a multi-well plate.
4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the member (x) is a gelatinous material that has been made by gelatinizing an aqueous solution of at least one member selected from the group consisting of agar, an agarose, and a cellulose derivative.
5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the substance to be examined is selected from the group consisting of a medicine, a nutrient, a growth factor, and an inhibitory factor.
6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the hollow has a cylindrical, inverted circular truncated conic, prismatic, or inverted truncated pyramidal shape.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the height of the hollow is at least a quarter of a diameter or length of a diagonal of the bottom of the hollow where the surface of the container is bared.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 1,~~ An apparatus for culture, comprising a container having at least one concave part and at least one member (x) selected from the group consisting of a gelatinous material, a sponge material, and a mesh material, wherein the member (x) is placed within the concave part of the container, has at least one hollow by which a part or parts of a surface of the container in the concave part is bared, and holds a solution containing culture medium components, and wherein on the bared part of the surface of the container, an electrode is pasted or printed.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 1,~~ An apparatus for culture, comprising a container having at least one concave part and at least one member (x) selected from the group consisting of a gelatinous material, a sponge material, and a mesh material, wherein the member (x) is placed within the concave part of the container, has at least one hollow by which a part or parts of a surface of the container in the concave part is bared, holds a solution containing culture medium components, and wherein the member (x) further has at least one member selected from the group consisting of a hole where the surface of the container in the concave part is not bared and a large hollow that has a volume larger than that of the hollow.
10. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing an apparatus for culture comprising:
step (a) of placing within a concave part of a container an article that can cover a part of a surface of the container concave part and has a certain height;
step (b) of pouring into the concave part a solution that contains culture medium components and at least one substance to be examined, and that can be gelatinized; and
step (c) of gelatinizing the solution.
11. (Cancelled).

12. (Original) The process according to claim 10, which further comprises step (d) of removing the article wherein the step (d) is conducted after the step (c).
13. (Currently Amended) ~~The process according to claim 10;~~ A process for preparing an apparatus for culture, comprising:
step (a) of placing within a concave part of a container an article that can cover a part of a surface of the concave part and has a certain height;
step (b) of pouring into the concave part a solution that contains culture medium components and that can be gelatinized; and
step (c) of gelatinizing the solution,
wherein the container has an electrode that has been pasted or printed on the surface of ~~the container in~~ the concave part and in step (a) the article is placed so that it covers at least a part of the electrode.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~The process according to claim 10;~~ A process for preparing an apparatus for culture, comprising:
step (a) of placing within a concave part of a container an article that can cover a part of a surface of the concave part and has a certain height;
step (b) of pouring into the concave part a solution that contains culture medium components and that can be gelatinized;
step (c) of gelatinizing the solution; and
~~which further comprises~~ step (e) of (i) holing a part of a layer that has been made by gelatinizing the solution to form a hole where a surface of ~~the container in~~ the concave part is not bared, or (ii) hollowing a part of a layer that has been made by gelatinizing the solution to form a large hollow which has a volume larger than that of a hollow which is made by removing the article and by which a part of a surface of ~~the container in~~ the concave part is bared, wherein the step (e) is conducted after the step (c).
15. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing ~~[[an]]~~ the apparatus for culture of claim 1 comprising:

step (A) of making within ~~[[a]]~~ the concave part of ~~[[a]]~~ the container a layer of at least one member (x) selected from the group consisting of a gelatinous material, a sponge material, and a mesh material, wherein the member (x) holds ~~[[a]]~~ the solution that contains culture medium components; and

step (B) of hollowing a part of the layer so that ~~[[a]]~~ the part of ~~[[a]]~~ the surface of ~~the container in~~ the concave part is bared to form ~~[[a]]~~ the hollow.

16. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing an apparatus for culture, comprising:
step (A) of making, within a concave part of a container, a layer of at least one member (x) selected from the group consisting of a sponge material and a mesh material, wherein the member (x) is impregnated with a solution containing culture medium components; and
step (B) of hollowing a part of the layer so that a part of a surface of the container in the concave part is bared to form a hollow. ~~The process according to claim 15, wherein the layer is composed of a sponge material and/or a mesh material, and the step (A) comprises impregnating the solution into the sponge material and/or the mesh material.~~
17. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing ~~[[an]]~~ the apparatus for culture of claim 1 comprising:
step (I) of making within ~~[[a]]~~ the concave part of ~~[[a]]~~ the container a layer of at least one member (x) selected from the group consisting of a gelatinous material, a sponge material, and a mesh material;
step (II) of hollowing a part of the layer so that ~~[[a]]~~ the part of ~~[[a]]~~ the surface of ~~the container in~~ the concave part is bared to form ~~[[a]]~~ the hollow; and
step (III) of impregnating ~~[[a]]~~ the solution that contains culture medium components into the layer.
18. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing ~~[[an]]~~ the apparatus for culture of claim 1 comprising:
step (1) of making ~~[[a]]~~ the hollow in a layered sponge or mesh material;

step (2) of placing the layered sponge or mesh material in ~~[[a]]~~ the concave part of ~~[[a]]~~
the container; and
step (3) of impregnating ~~[[a]]~~ the solution that contains culture medium components into
the layered sponge or mesh material.

19. – 20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A culturing method using the apparatus of claim 1, comprising:
(1) putting a culture medium solution and cells or a piece of a tissue into the ~~at least one~~
hollow of the apparatus of claim 1; and
(2) culturing the cells or the piece of the tissue.
22. (New) A culturing method using the apparatus of claim 8, comprising:
(1) putting a culture medium solution and cells or a piece of a tissue into the at least one
hollow; and
(2) culturing the cells or the piece of the tissue.
23. (New) A culturing method using the apparatus of claim 9, comprising:
(1) putting a culture medium solution and cells or a piece of a tissue into the at least one
hollow; and
(2) culturing the cells or the piece of the tissue.